



Office of the Mayor

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February 24, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Monique Limón
Senate President pro Tempore
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker of the Assembly
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable John Laird
Chair, Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8720
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Committee on Budget
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Melissa Hurtado
Chair, Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee 4
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6510
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva
Chair, Budget Subcommittee 5
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4210
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Restore Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Grant Program Budget to Previous Funding Levels

Dear Governor Newsom, Senate President pro Tempore Limón, Speaker Rivas, Senate Budget Chair Laird, Assembly Budget Chair Gabriel, Senate Subcommittee Chair Hurtado, and Assembly Subcommittee Chair Quirk-Silva:

Thank you for your continued leadership and partnership in addressing homelessness across California. The City of Fremont appreciates the State's commitment to the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program. **On behalf of the City of Fremont, I strongly urge restoration of at least one billion dollars for HHAP Round 7, along with an ongoing annual investment of one billion dollars to sustain progress and prevent backsliding.**

The HHAP program has been one of the most effective tools available to local governments to address homelessness through shelter, outreach, housing navigation, and permanent housing solutions. Since 2023, HHAP investments have helped place tens of thousands of Californians into permanent housing and have contributed to flattening statewide homelessness trends, including a reduction in unsheltered homelessness. These outcomes demonstrate that sustained investment works and that now is not the time to reduce funding.

For Fremont, HHAP funding is essential to maintaining critical homelessness response infrastructure. Approximately seventy-six percent (76%) of Fremont's unhoused residents live outdoors. Ongoing funding

allows the City to operate shelter and service programs that move people indoors, stabilize health conditions, and create pathways to permanent housing.

The City of Fremont has received all rounds of HHAP funding and has fully dedicated these resources to its Housing Navigation Center, a 45-bed program that provides shelter and intensive, housing-focused case management. HHAP funding allows Fremont to operate this program at full capacity while delivering wraparound services that help residents exit homelessness. Fremont's HNC has a success rate twice the national average of similar programs and has been a regional resource as the City works with our neighbors in Union City and Newark to pool HHAP funding and sustain the success of this crucial program. Without continued HHAP support, the City would be forced to make difficult decisions between maintaining shelter capacity and sustaining other critical homelessness services.

In fiscal year 2023-24 alone, Fremont invested approximately \$3.8 million from its General Fund to support homeless services, including shelter operations, outreach, case management, and rapid rehousing. These local investments reflect the City's commitment to leveraging state resources and sharing responsibility for addressing homelessness. However, one-time funding makes long-term planning difficult and creates instability for programs that require continuity to be effective.

Beyond state funding uncertainty, homelessness response efforts face increasing risk due to potential reductions in federal support and broader economic pressures. Without sufficient and timely state investment, communities like Fremont risk losing hard-won progress and may see increased unsheltered homelessness and housing instability. I respectfully urge an approach grounded in continuity, efficiency, flexibility, and outcomes.

To begin, it is critical to avoid a funding gap by ensuring Round 7 resources are distributed early in the 2026-27 fiscal year. Delays in prior rounds have placed significant financial strain on local governments and disrupted essential programs. Predictable and timely disbursement is necessary to sustain shelter operations, homelessness prevention efforts, and ongoing services that depend on uninterrupted funding.

The City also supports strong accountability while cautioning against overly burdensome application requirements. Allowing jurisdictions to update and refine their most recent HHAP program applications would maintain transparency and performance oversight while accelerating the release of funds to communities with immediate needs. Further, new requirements for Round 7 of the program should be phased in a manner that recognizes progress and good-faith efforts, rather than creating delays that undermine service delivery.

Finally, funding decisions should prioritize sustaining resources within the communities where homelessness is occurring, ensuring that individuals experiencing homelessness are not at risk of losing access to critical social services arising from technical compliance issues. The City of Fremont shares the State's broader goals to reduce homelessness and continues to welcome opportunities to turn those goals into reality.

Sincerely,



Raj Salwan
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Dr. Aisha Wahab, California State Senate
The Honorable Alex Lee, California State Assembly